

EPA Region III

Office of Public Affairs

EARLY BIRD HEADLINES

Monday, April 30, 2012

*** MORNING HOT LIST ***

State investigating methane in water near Dimock Twp.

SCRANTON TIMES-TRIBUNE (Saturday) State environmental regulators are investigating a possible case of methane migrating into water supplies just north of the 9-square-mile box in Dimock Township where the state halted a gas driller's operations because of methane contamination in 2010. Regulators with the state Department of Environmental Protection emphasized that they have not determined the source of elevated methane discovered in two Susquehanna County water wells and whether it is caused by Marcellus Shale drilling or a natural occurrence of gas in the aquifer. One focus of the investigation is Cabot Oil and Gas Corp.'s Greenwood 1 well, where the company recently squeezed additional cement between steel barriers that are meant to seal off gas and fluids from the aquifer. The work in late March was an effort to stop the problem, DEP spokesman Kevin Sunday said, even though inspectors have not pinpointed the well as the cause. "The next step is to determine the effectiveness of the remediation work and to continue water well sampling," he said. Regulators began investigating the elevated methane levels in August 2010 after a resident complained about water quality. The gas wells being evaluated are less than 400 feet from the northern boundary of a section of Dimock where Cabot's drilling and hydraulic fracturing operations have been on hold since April 2010, when state regulators blamed faulty Cabot wells for allowing shallow methane to channel into 18 private water wells. Cabot disputes the state's findings in that case. The current investigation is separate from the ongoing review of Cabot's wells in the off-limits area. Cabot spokesman George Stark said Friday that the company "always investigates landowners' concerns as they are brought to our attention. Cabot has been working closely with the Department of Environmental Protection on this matter and will continue to do so with the best interest of our landowners in mind." Neither of the two water wells involved in the current investigation has been vented because one well is buried and has not been located and inspections of the other have not found gas trapped in the open space above the water in the well, Sunday said.

Bay cleanup plan has environmental groups at odds

WASHINGTON POST For more than a decade, the Potomac Riverkeeper organization has been that ant that tried to move a rubber tree plant, taking on large corporate polluters in high hopes of one day cleaning the Chesapeake Bay. But recently, in an unlikely twist, the scrappy Potomac Riverkeeper backed away from a fight. Although it believes a controversial part of the Environmental Protection Agency's plan to clean up the bay will actually lead to more pollution, it abandoned a small coalition of environmentalists that had threatened to sue the EPA. "We do not have the resources to get involved with this particular lawsuit," said the group's leader, Ed Merrifield. It was responding to a threat — not from a corporation, its usual foe, but a friend. The Keith Campbell Foundation for the Environment, which has donated millions of dollars to Riverkeeper groups over the years, threatened to withdraw future funding if they sued. Other Riverkeeper groups also dropped legal action. It was a clear sign that environmental groups have not only squared off against the American Farm Bureau Federation, which has filed a federal lawsuit to stop the largest bay cleanup plan in history, but also each other, in the 16 months since the EPA approved the first state proposals to reduce pollution in the watershed. The stakes are huge. The most ardent backers of the EPA's aggressive new pollution diet — the Choose Clean Water Coalition of 230 groups, the Chesapeake Bay Foundation and the Natural Resources Defense Council — view it as the Chesapeake's last hope.

Editorial: Fact pollution: Again, the lung association clouds the region's air

PITTSBURGH POST GAZETTE The only question about the American Lung Association's dirty air report is, when will the group come clean? Once again it has issued a report on the state of the air, and once again one of the monitors in southwestern Pennsylvania has recorded some of the highest emissions readings in the country for ozone and fine particulate pollution. No surprise there. So why can't the lung association report it that way? Instead, it grossly and inaccurately lets the pollution readings from a single monitor, typically the one in Liberty Borough, not far from U.S. Steel's Clairton Coke Works, represent the air quality of a disparate region -- Allegheny, Beaver, Washington, Westmoreland, Fayette, Butler, Armstrong and Lawrence counties. From New Castle to Uniontown, Slippery Rock to "Little" Washington, Kittanning to Connellsville, Midland to Ligonier, with the city of Pittsburgh in between, the Liberty monitor speaks for you. Yet 14 different monitors in these counties measure particulate and 12 different monitors track ozone, with numbers all over the lot. People have a right to be incensed -- and the lung association obliges every year. It issues a deceptively uniform picture of the region's air that is clouded by data collected from one instrument. This is not advocacy, but fact pollution -- and it's almost criminal. Imagine a Texas business owner thinking about a move to southwestern Pennsylvania. Imagine a Vermont student considering a college in the region. Imagine an Iowa family weighing a job offer in one of these eight counties. If you believe the lung association report, they'll all be inhaling the level of emissions registered in Liberty. Now imagine the coal-fired power industry producing the same kind of report -- except it lets the monitor with the *lowest* recorded emissions speak for the air quality of the region. That report would be bogus in the opposite direction for the same reason. The health group says it applies this shoddy -- our word -- method to every metro region in its report, so all it's doing is comparing apples to apples. But these apples are bad and they're beginning to suggest the credibility of the lung association is rotten.

Coal industry wants activists muted in courts over mine permits

CHARLESTON GAZETTE (Sunday) HUNTINGTON, W.Va. -- Coal industry lawyers are hoping to combine the results of several recent court cases to significantly narrow the ability of citizen groups to block new mountaintop-removal mining permits in federal court. Lawyers for Alpha Natural Resources outlined their strategy last week during a hearing before U.S. District Judge Robert C. Chambers, who is considering citizen group challenges to at least two permits issued by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Shane Harvey, a former Massey Energy Co. general counsel now representing Alpha, argued that a trio of federal court cases leaves Chambers with very little ability to overrule a permit approval from the corps. The rulings -- a district court ruling, an appeals court decision and a U.S. Supreme Court opinion -- show federal judges should "defer to the corps' review" of applications for Clean Water Act "dredge-and-fill" permits, Harvey said in a legal brief. Chambers did not immediately agree, and questioned Harvey in detail about parts of the industry's analysis. Obama administration lawyers, representing the corps at the hearing, also argued a similarly narrow view, saying Chambers should not hear detailed evidence from academic experts working with citizen groups in the case. At issue is a permit the corps granted to Alpha subsidiary Highland Mining for its 635-acre Reylas Surface mine near Ethel in Logan County. The company hopes to employ about 100 people for six years of mining, and then create a 235-acre site with paved roads and utilities that could be used for temporary housing during flooding and other emergencies. The mine, though, would bury about 2.5 miles of streams beneath a valley fill and associated runoff-control structures.

Nutrient Management Commission releases 2011 annual report

DELAWARE CAPE GAZETTE The Delaware Nutrient Management Commission has released its 2011 Annual Report, documenting the progress Delaware farmers and other nutrient handlers have made in reducing nutrient runoff. The report, recently submitted to Gov. Jack Markell and members of the General Assembly, reviews accomplishments for fiscal year 2011, including continued implementation of Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation regulations and the first full year for updated outdoor manure staging and storage regulations. All of Delaware's cropland and nutrient-applied land is managed under nutrient management plans developed by certified consultants. Secretary of Agriculture Ed Kee said the report demonstrates how Delaware farmers and other nutrient handlers have

adopted best management practices to help meet the state's goals. "Delaware farmers are committed to surpassing the challenge of excellent environmental stewardship," Kee said. "Our farmers understand that water quality requires good nutrient management, and they are always finding solutions. Their leadership and cooperation have been critical to Delaware's achievements in this area." Those farmers include such environmental leaders as Jesse and Deborah Vanderwende of Greenwood's Locust Grove Farm, and Charles, Mary, Patty and Bill Leager of Greenwood's Wood Edge Farm. The Vanderwende and Leager families were honored earlier this year with the 2011 Environmental Stewardship Awards for their work in reducing nutrient runoff. The Vanderwendes were awarded top honors, and the Leagers were first runners-up. The Environmental Stewardship Awards recognize farmers whose stewardship and farm practices contribute to the conservation of water quality and farmland, including nutrient management, best management practices, farm management, innovation, biodiversity and wildlife habitat management.

Scientists use algae to scrub harbor water

BALTIMORE SUN In their quest to cure Baltimore's ailing harbor, advocates and authorities have tried one gadget after another: floating wetlands, a solar-powered aerator, even a trash wheel. Add now the "algal turf scrubber," a long wooden sluiceway through which harbor water is pumped over a bed of slimy green algae. The gutter, 350 feet long by a foot wide, uses native algae to strip nutrients, suspended sediment and carbon from water and inject oxygen into it before returning it to the harbor. The algae feed on the nutrients in the water pumped down the sluiceway, just as they do in the open waters of the harbor and the Chesapeake Bay. "We call it 'ecological engineering,'" said Patrick Kangas, director of University of Maryland's Algal Ecotechnology Center. "What you see here is basically a controlled algae bloom." The university's scientists have teamed up with the ecological restoration firm Biohabitats Inc. to build and run the scrubber on a fenced-off gravel lot in Fells Point where a chromium ore processing plant once operated. Kangas and colleagues have been experimenting with algae scrubbers for several years, testing them in the Susquehanna River, on the Eastern Shore and in Virginia. The scrubber at Harbor Point is the same one used two years ago at Peach Bottom nuclear power plant on the Susquehanna, where it was estimated it removed 640 pounds of nitrogen and 90 pounds of phosphorus from the water. The device processed heated water discharged from the Pennsylvania power plant, inspiring Kangas to suggest that larger algae scrubbers might effectively augment or even replace the cooling towers nuclear plants now use to treat the water with which they cool their reactors. Harbor water has been sloshing down the scrubber's wooden trough since December, drawn from the dead-end canal by the Living Classrooms Foundation's campus on Caroline Street. "We've never done it in a spot like this before," said Kangas, who welcomed the chance to try it there because he hoped it might be able to affect water quality. "Our intention was to use this site to show we can overturn a 'dead zone.'"

PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER

PITTSBURGH POST-GAZETTE

PITTSBURGH TRIBUNE REVIEW

NORFOLK VIRGINIAN PILOT

NEWPORT NEWS DAILY PRESS

ROANOKE TIMES

RICHMOND TIMES DISPATCH

SOUTHERN MARYLAND NEWSPAPERS

LANCASTER INTELLIGENCER

WILMINGTON NEWS JOURNAL

DELAWARE CAPE GAZETTE

BNA DAILY ENVIRONMENT REPORT

ASSOCIATED PRESS

CHARLESTON GAZETTE

PENNSYLVANIA

PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER

Column: Green Living: There's big energy to be saved in the laundry room Good thing my clothes can't feel anything or talk. If they could, they'd surely berate me. I used to bathe them in nice warm water. These days, they're thrashing about in cold. From my viewpoint, it's all good. Cold water means they don't shrink, they don't fade, I save money by not using hot water, and — more to the point of this column — I'm helping the environment by not using as much electricity. According to most estimates, heating the water accounts for about 80 to 85 percent of the energy consumed by a typical batch of laundry. It's a big number. But so far, most of us seem to be sticking with the mind-set we learned from our mothers: hot for whites, warm for colors, cold just for delicates. According to recent data from Procter & Gamble, only about 30 percent of laundry loads in the United States are done on cold. Things are changing in laundry-land, however, as more and more groups take up the flag for cold water, and detergent manufacturers develop new formulas to work better in cold water. This could be a bigger shift than the return to the clothesline (which probably wasn't very big after all). In February, the Alliance to Save Energy (ASE), a national nonprofit that works to promote energy efficiency, partnered with Procter & Gamble to promote the benefits of cold-water washing. "Energy efficiency doesn't always require huge investments or new equipment," said Alliance president Kateri Callahan. "With just the switch of a dial, cold-water washing is one of the simplest ways to save energy and money and benefit the environment."

Injured bald eagle is a mystery to Pennsylvania wildlife officials The bald eagle was lying on its back in a pool of blood in, of all places, a Broomall parking lot. Joe Simmonds, the maintenance man at Congregation Beth El-Ner Tamid, spotted its dark form as he emptied trash into a Dumpster. He put a traffic cone by the huge bird so no one would run over it, and he called 911. The bird was breathing. It was alive, just barely. Wildlife officials trying to coax it back to health now think the male eagle was beset by a triple dose of misfortune. It has lead poisoning. X-rays showed it has a BB or shotgun pellet lodged in his chest. And it likely had been hit by a car. "We don't know if this bird is going to be OK," said Rick Schubert, director of wildlife rehabilitation at the Schuylkill Center for Environmental Education, where the bird is being treated. "It still hangs in the balance." Simmonds found the eagle nearly two weeks ago, on April 17. Jerry Czech, a wildlife conservation officer with the state Game Commission, got it to the clinic by 10:30 p.m. Schubert was waiting, and he was horrified. "It could not stand up. It was thin. It had blood on its face, on its feathers, in its mouth and in its nose," he said. "It looked like it went 10 rounds with Mike Tyson."

PITTSBURGH POST-GAZETTE

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in the region. Imagine an Iowa family weighing a job offer in one of these eight counties. If you believe the lung association report, they'll all be inhaling the level of emissions registered in Liberty. Now imagine the coal-fired power industry producing the same kind of report -- except it lets the monitor with the *lowest* recorded emissions speak for the air quality of the region. That report would be bogus in the opposite direction for the same reason. The health group says it applies this shoddy -- our word -- method to every metro region in its report, so all it's doing is comparing apples to apples. But these apples are bad and they're beginning to suggest the credibility of the lung association is rotten.

PG garners national, state, local journalism recognition The work of Pittsburgh Post-Gazette newsroom staffers has been recognized in three more contests at three levels of competition -- national, state and local...First-place winners are: Business writing -- the PG's Marcellus Shale coverage team, which includes Bill Toland, Don Hopey, Jonathan Silver, Janice Crompton, Erich Schwartzel, Elisabeth Ponsot, Andrea Iglar, Matt Kennedy, Laura Schneiderman, Steve Mellon and Sean Hamill. The team's work on a special print section on Marcellus development as well the PG's interactive website on the subject -- Pipeline -- were honored in this category.

W&J College index details U.S. energy consumption Since the administration of President Harry Truman, the nation's dependence on foreign sources of energy has increased by 22 percent. That fact is one of many insights into the country's energy consumption provided by the Washington & Jefferson College Energy Index, which uses an algorithm to determine how much of our energy comes from domestic sources. "This is the first time that anybody has developed a public benchmark for evaluation of energy independence and done it a way that the public understands," said Diana Stares, director of the Center for Energy Policy & Management at Washington & Jefferson College, which will oversee the project.

PITTSBURGH TRIBUNE REVIEW

JOHNSTOWN TRIBUNE DEMOCRAT

DELAWARE COUNTY DAILY TIMES

ALLENTOWN MORNING CALL

Lawmaker wants to exempt Bucks County from Marcellus Shale law State Sen. Chuck McIlhinney pushes amendment that would exempt county from Marcellus Shale law. A thin layer of 200-million-year-old mud lies thousands of feet beneath the fields, farms and homesteads of Nockamixon Township in upper Bucks County. That ancient mud, laid down in prehistory and dubbed the Lockatong Shale, might have a spot of natural gas locked away in its flaky layers. And that hint of gas has Nockamixon in the throes of a lawsuit challenging the state's Marcellus Shale law, known as Act 13, which regulates the gas industry that's boomed with the use of unconventional techniques like horizontal drilling and hydraulic fracturing, or fracking, of rock to release gas. The law's most controversial provision supersedes local zoning and control of oil and gas operations, which Nockamixon believes is unconstitutional. Thousands of gas wells have been bored across central and western Pennsylvania as oil and gas companies tap enormous deposits in the Marcellus and Utica shale formations, but no one has drilled in Bucks -- at least, not yet. A western Pennsylvania company named Turm Oil applied this year to drill in Nockamixon, and some residents and officials fear Act 13 strips them of power to control the gas industry. They worry about heavy truck traffic on narrow roads; the quality of their well water; and the rustic, rural nature of the township. State Sen. Chuck McIlhinney, R-Bucks, hopes to calm those railing against Act 13 by amending the law to exempt counties without "unconventional" gas wells, which he says would keep local zoning control intact in southeastern Pennsylvania. _

HARRISBURGH PATRIOT NEWS

Commentary: Hunters, anglers must lead charge to protect Pa. forests I am a lifelong hunter and angler, and Pennsylvania's state forest system has afforded me an extraordinary opportunity to hunt on public lands for grouse, squirrel, turkey, deer and bear, and it's pristine creeks and streams have enabled me to fish for native wild trout. I love our beautiful state forest, its habitat and wildlife. But I fear that these hunting and fishing opportunities are in peril by a state government susceptible to "Marcellus madness" and that my sons (and grandsons) might never come to know the beauty, bounty and benefit of our marvelous state park and forest system. Our state forest system is composed of 2.2 million acres, 1.5 million acres of which are in the Marcellus Shale region. Oil and gas drilling has occurred in the state forest for decades, and today 700,000 acres are leased for gas drilling, which represents 47 percent of the state forest in the Marcellus region. So why rush to lease the remaining 53 percent of the forest for gas drilling? The lingering national recession has resulted in reduced tax revenue to fund state government programs and operations. The Corbett administration forecasts a \$486 million revenue shortfall for this year despite record cuts in state spending. Even with another round of state budget cuts, there remains the stark fiscal fact that additional state revenue is needed to address critical state budget needs. One obvious option to raise needed revenue was to enact a reasonable and fair drilling tax on Marcellus Shale gas and use the revenue to invest in environmental protection and remediation programs, address impacts to local governments, and provide funding for critical state budget needs, especially public education.

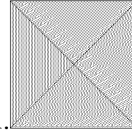
Read more here: <http://www.centredaily.com/2012/02/08/3082316/company-wants-to-buy-public-rail.html#storylink=cpy>

SCRANTON TIMES-TRIBUNE

State investigating methane in water near Dimock Twp. State environmental regulators are investigating a possible case of methane migrating into water supplies just north of the 9-square-mile box in Dimock Township where the state halted a gas driller's operations because of methane contamination in 2010. Regulators with the state Department of Environmental Protection emphasized that they have not determined the source of elevated methane discovered in two Susquehanna County water wells and whether it is caused by Marcellus Shale drilling or a natural occurrence of gas in the aquifer. One focus of the investigation is Cabot Oil and Gas Corp.'s Greenwood 1 well, where the company recently squeezed additional cement between steel barriers that are meant to seal off gas and fluids from the aquifer. The work in late March was an effort to stop the problem, DEP spokesman Kevin Sunday said, even though inspectors have not pinpointed the well as the cause. "The next step is to determine the effectiveness of the remediation work and to continue water well sampling," he said. Regulators began investigating the elevated methane levels in August 2010 after a resident complained about water quality. The gas wells being evaluated are less than 400 feet from the northern boundary of a section of Dimock where Cabot's drilling and hydraulic fracturing operations have been on hold since April 2010, when state regulators blamed faulty Cabot wells for allowing shallow methane to channel into 18 private water wells. Cabot disputes the state's findings in that case. The current investigation is separate from the ongoing review of Cabot's wells in the off-limits area. Cabot spokesman George Stark said Friday that the company "always investigates landowners' concerns as they are brought to our attention. Cabot has been working closely with the Department of Environmental Protection on this matter and will continue to do so with the best interest of our landowners in mind." Neither of the two water wells involved in the current investigation has been vented because one well is buried and has not been located and inspections of the other have not found gas trapped in the open space above the water in the well, Sunday said.

Trying to find the gas drilling 'line of death' (Sunday) SUGARLOAF TWP. - For the past few weeks, contractors have swarmed the natural gas well site next to the Bear Fuel service station on state Route 118 in Columbia County. This time, they were filling instead of drilling. Bear Fuel employee John Leshko was close enough that he could watch the contractors pulling up the pipes and well casing. On Wednesday, they covered the area where a drilling rig once stood with sheets of metal. "They're getting rid of everything," Mr. Leshko said. "They're cleaning up something fierce." It isn't the first time an exploratory gas well in the region didn't produce enough gas to be considered economically viable. Geologists say the unproductive part of the Marcellus Shale extends beyond the coal region, where the high temperatures that hardened the anthracite "cooked" the natural gas out of the shale. The latest in a series of unproductive wells confirms experts' beliefs that producing natural gas in the region may be nothing more than a pipe

dream. "Right now, I would be surprised if anything in Luzerne County were to come up productive," said Kenneth Klemow, director of the Institute for Energy and Environmental Research for Northeastern Pennsylvania at Wilkes University. Heather Lamparter, general counsel for EXCO Resources LLC, which was exploring the area near Bear Fuel, said the company is plugging and abandoning the well. "It was not a good well," she said. She declined to elaborate. Just a few miles away, WPX Energy had a well pad on state Route 487 near St. Gabriel Hill Road. WPX Energy is continuing to evaluate that well, spokeswoman Susan Oliver said. But the rudimentary wellhead stands alone



in the field, the drilling rig and water tankers gone and unlikely to return.

Read more: <http://thetimes-tribune.com/news/trying-to-find-the-gas-drilling-line-of-death-1.1307866#ixzz1tWSyKYgQ>

Region's shale boom extended to law For the 30-plus years that attorney Joseph Persico practiced real estate law, he saw little activity with oil and gas leases. After the birth of the Marcellus Shale natural gas industry, that has changed. The Marcellus Shale boom has pushed attorneys throughout Northeast Pennsylvania to practice oil and gas law after years of specializing in other areas. "Lawyers and the legal community had to get up to speed with oil and gas leasing laws once this Marcellus Shale phenomenon began," said Mr. Persico, a managing partner with Rosenn, Jenkins & Greenwald in Wilkes-Barre, "Lawyers became very quickly familiar with the terms of oil and gas leases and how they worked and what to look for." Attorney Doug Clark in Blakely practiced law for 17 years and formerly was a criminal defense lawyer. He began looking into oil and gas leases when his wife Marceea's family and neighbors were approached by a natural gas company interested in leasing land in Wayne County. As he negotiated a deal for thousands of acres of land, he learned there weren't many attorneys doing this work. Now, as companies continue to drill gas wells across the state, his primary focus is working with landowners across the Marcellus and Utica Shale formations with oil and gas leases and pipeline agreements. Since changing his practice in 2007 to oil and gas law, he has negotiated hundreds of leases and agreements.

WILKES-BARRE TIMES LEADER

Sportsmen encounter the challenges of drilling industry There are a few old hotspots in Wyoming and Sullivan counties where Dallas resident Russ Bigus won't hunt anymore. It's not that those places where Bigus often found turkey and deer no longer produce -- they simply no longer exist. Well pads, access roads and pipelines for Marcellus Shale drilling **operations have claimed some of the areas that hunters, such as Bigus, enjoyed for years. The increase in drilling activity is forcing some outdoor enthusiasts to move elsewhere to find opportunities,** and Bigus hopes such impacts are temporary. "Right now I'm not too terribly upset because hopefully in a few years things will return back to normal," he said. Bigus has seen the most impacts on areas where he hunts for spring gobbler. A well pad in Wyoming County removed the large roost trees that attracted turkeys, he said, while another series of pads near Wyalusing resulted in a 10-acre clearing of what used to be a prime hunting spot. "I'm going to walk away from those areas for a few years," Bigus said. "The turkeys have moved out of those areas so I'll go somewhere else." Since gas drilling moved into the northeast corner of the state several years ago, the Pennsylvania Game Commission has heard concerns from hunters and trappers about the industry impacting the areas they hunt and trap. Although an agency survey has found that Marcellus Shale activity isn't necessarily forcing hunters away from the sport, the Game Commission does take steps to lessen the impacts on hunters and trappers.

NORWICH (NY) EVENING SUN

Pro-drilling organization releases 'The Real Dimock' video DIMOCK, Pa. – A pro-Marcellus Shale drilling group, Dimock Proud, has released a video highlighting the town's landowners, residents and business owners' positive feelings toward natural gas development. Dimock Proud is a community organization founded in 2011 to bring residents together and celebrate the energy companies that are providing opportunity, jobs, and revenues to the township. The group supports petitions urging the federal Environmental Protection Agency and the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection to allow natural gas production to move forward in their community.

DANVILLE NEWS

Frack cleaner facing hurdle with city rule SUNBURY — It's been two weeks since Sunbury Councilman Joe Bartello informed a Massachusetts company that the type of material it handles at a Baltimore facility would be strictly prohibited at the Sunbury site where Clean Harbors seeks to create a waste transfer station. While Clean Harbors — which processes Marcellus Shale industry-generated residual waste — is seeking a permit from the state Department of Environmental Protection to operate on the former Celotex site, Bartello said it is more important the company appear before the city's zoning hearing board, and that Sunbury's code is more restrictive than that of DEP. "I have not been informed about anything," Bartello said of the lack of response to his letter. Bartello sent the letter April 13 to Clean Harbors Environmental Services, of Norwell, Mass., in regard to its plans to work at the site, owned by Moran Industries, of Watsontown. In it he referenced Chapter 175, Article 60, of Sunbury's zoning ordinance, titled "Prohibited uses in an industrial park district," a portion of which states the banning of "processes that may be noxious or injurious by reason of the production or emission of dust, smoke, refuse matter, odor, gas (or) fumes ..."

WILLIAMSPORT SUN-GAZETTE

STATE COLLEGE CENTRE DAILY TIMES

ERIE TIMES-NEWS

DOYLESTOWN INTELLIGENCER

EASTON EXPRESS TIMES (LEHIG VALLEY LIVE)

READING EAGLE

LANCASTER NEWSPAPERS

ALTOONA MIRROR

SUNBURY DAILY ITEM

POTTSTOWN MERCURY

STATE IMPACT PENNSYLVANIA

A Link Between Heavy Drilling and Illness? Doctors Search for Solid Answers

Doc-tors in heav-ily drilled areas across Penn-syl-va-nia are start-ing to see more patients who report symp-toms they think might be related to gas activ-ity. But with all the talk about health con-cerns and Mar-cel-lus Shale, what are the links between the two? And where does a doc-tor turn for answers? For this story, we spoke to sev-eral doc-tors who expressed frus-tra-tion with try-ing to treat sus-pected shale related health impacts. This is the story of one such doctor's quest for solid infor-ma-tion on how to help her patients. Wash-ing-ton County's vil-lage of Rae has only about 12 houses, and it's hard to find on google maps. This is the heart of Pennsylvania's shale coun-try. The first Mar-cel-lus well was drilled in Wash-ing-ton County back in 2004, and today, there are 342 active gas wells reg-is-tered with the state Depart-ment of Envi-ron-men-tal Pro-tec-tion. Rae is sur-rounded by nat-ural gas wells. Seven are within less than a mile.

ASSOCIATED PRESS (Pa.)

WASHINGTON, D.C.

WASHINGTON POST

Bay cleanup plan has environmental groups at odds For more than a decade, the Potomac Riverkeeper organization has been that ant that tried to move a rubber tree plant, taking on large corporate polluters in high hopes of one day cleaning the Chesapeake Bay. But recently, in an unlikely twist, the scrappy Potomac Riverkeeper backed away from a fight. Although it believes a controversial part of the Environmental Protection Agency's plan to clean up the bay will actually lead to more pollution, it abandoned a small coalition of environmentalists that had threatened to sue the EPA. "We do not have the resources to get involved with this particular lawsuit," said the group's leader, Ed Merrifield. It was responding to a threat — not from a corporation, its usual foe, but a friend. The Keith Campbell Foundation for the Environment, which has donated millions of dollars to Riverkeeper groups over the years, threatened to withdraw future funding if they sued. Other Riverkeeper groups also dropped legal action. It was a clear sign that environmental groups have not only squared off against the American Farm Bureau Federation, which has filed a federal lawsuit to stop the largest bay cleanup plan in history, but also each other, in the 16 months since the EPA approved the first state proposals to reduce pollution in the watershed. The stakes are huge. The most ardent backers of the EPA's aggressive new pollution diet — the Choose Clean Water Coalition of 230 groups, the Chesapeake Bay Foundation and the Natural Resources Defense Council — view it as the Chesapeake's last hope.

EPA faces crucial climate decision on diesel made from palm oil Quick quiz: Which country is the world's third-largest emitter of greenhouse gases, after the United States and China? The answer, at least in recent years, has been Indonesia. That's surprising. It's not the world's third-largest economy. It's not an industrial powerhouse. But Indonesia has been clearing its vast rain forests of late, releasing huge stores of carbon into the air. One culprit has been the country's fast-growing production of palm oil, an edible vegetable oil that's increasingly being harvested to make biodiesel fuel for cars and trucks in Europe. This isn't just a bit of environmental trivia. There's a fierce battle in the United States over whether the Environmental Protection Agency should allow more diesel made from palm oil to be used by U.S. refineries. Agribusiness groups are lobbying for its use. Environmentalists are trying to block it — with some saying this could be the EPA's most important climate-change decision of the year. Here's the backstory: In 2007, Congress expanded a requirement for U.S. refineries to blend a certain amount of "renewable fuel" with their gasoline. Ethanol or biofuels could count, but they had to be 20 percent cleaner than traditional fossil fuels. And, in

January, the EPA released a preliminary analysis suggesting that biodiesel and renewable diesel made from palm oil didn't quite make the cut, thanks in part to the deforestation effect. (Over the course of their life cycle, the EPA found, palm-oil fuels emitted 11 to 17 percent less greenhouse gases than regular gasoline.)

EPA administrator rejects official's 'crucifixion' comments (Saturday) Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Lisa Jackson distanced herself Friday from comments by a top agency official who told a Texas community two years ago that his approach to enforcement was to make an example of polluters the way Romans crucified people to quash rebellions. Republicans on Capitol Hill, meanwhile, demanded that Jackson fire the official, regional administrator Alfredo Juan "Al" Armendariz. "Frankly, [the comments] were inflammatory but also wrong," Jackson said Friday when asked about a YouTube video discovered this week by Oklahoma Republican Sen. James M. Inhofe's staff. "They don't comport with either this administration's policy on energy, our policy at EPA on environmental enforcement, nor do they comport with our record as well." She noted that Armendariz has apologized for what he called a "poor choice of words." Jackson said she will "continue to review" the case. But she stopped short of saying he will resign and declined to say whether he faces discipline. House Republicans representing the energy heavy South Central region Armendariz oversees called his philosophy of enforcement "beyond the pale" and a reflection of a "petty, arbitrary and demagogic" environmental agency under President Obama. "The EPA is not a conquering army, it does not wield dictatorial power, and it certainly was not granted the authority to crucify anyone," the lawmakers told Jackson in a letter Friday calling for his dismissal. Armendariz's comments "betray a vindictive culture that is driven by ideology more than it is by science." The letter was signed by 26 congressmen, including the entire Republican House delegation from Texas.

Letter: Why solar energy in the District deserves a warm reception The Post's editorial board seems committed to oppose any legislation with my name on it. How else to explain its criticism of the Energy Innovation and Savings Amendment Act of 2012 ["D.C. and climate change," April 22]? The editorial opposed solar energy incentives in the District and nearby jurisdictions. Solar energy is uniquely suited to serve the District because it offers site flexibility, can be easily added to existing structures, reduces stress on the grid in precise areas and creates local green jobs. Perhaps The Post would like the District to fall behind our neighbors, such as Maryland, Pennsylvania, Delaware and New Jersey, which have enacted similar incentives.

WTOP RADIO

WASHINGTON EXAMINER

WASHINGTON TIMES

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DELAWARE

WILMINGTON NEWS JOURNAL

Delaware's national park efforts advance Will Delaware have a national park in time for next year's 375th anniversary of the arrival of Swedish settlers on the Kalmar Nyckel? It could happen, said Sen. Tom Carper, who has been pushing Congress for almost a decade to create a national park in Delaware, the only state without one. "I'd love to be able to do that," Carper said. "I think it will happen this year. It's not out of the realm of possibility." Carper's bill is on the Senate's legislative calendar, which means the next step is for the chamber to vote on it, said Alan Spears, legislative representative for the nonprofit National Parks Conservation Association, which supports the legislation. "We're still optimistic, though time isn't an ally in this process," Spears said. "It will get even more partisan and gridlocked the

closer we get to the election."Carper said he expects the bill to be packaged with other relatively noncontroversial measures so it can gain broad support. Spears said that might be the proposal's best chance for passage. Some resistance to the proposal has come from congressional members reluctant to expand the size and expense of government, especially in light of a \$7 billion to \$9 billion backlog of maintenance projects at the nation's nearly 400 existing parks.

DELAWARE CAPE GAZETTE

Nutrient Management Commission releases 2011 annual report The Delaware Nutrient Management Commission has released its 2011 Annual Report, documenting the progress Delaware farmers and other nutrient handlers have made in reducing nutrient runoff. The report, recently submitted to Gov. Jack Markell and members of the General Assembly, reviews accomplishments for fiscal year 2011, including continued implementation of Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation regulations and the first full year for updated outdoor manure staging and storage regulations. All of Delaware's cropland and nutrient-applied land is managed under nutrient management plans developed by certified consultants. Secretary of Agriculture Ed Kee said the report demonstrates how Delaware farmers and other nutrient handlers have adopted best management practices to help meet the state's goals. "Delaware farmers are committed to surpassing the challenge of excellent environmental stewardship," Kee said. "Our farmers understand that water quality requires good nutrient management, and they are always finding solutions. Their leadership and cooperation have been critical to Delaware's achievements in this area." Those farmers include such environmental leaders as Jesse and Deborah Vanderwende of Greenwood's Locust Grove Farm, and Charles, Mary, Patty and Bill Leager of Greenwood's Wood Edge Farm. The Vanderwende and Leager families were honored earlier this year with the 2011 Environmental Stewardship Awards for their work in reducing nutrient runoff. The Vanderwendes were awarded top honors, and the Leagers were first runners-up. The Environmental Stewardship Awards recognize farmers whose stewardship and farm practices contribute to the conservation of water quality and farmland, including nutrient management, best management practices, farm management, innovation, biodiversity and wildlife habitat management.

Delaware Agritourism Association launches Farm Adventure Trail The Delaware Agritourism Association launched its newest statewide agritourism trail April 24 at TS Smith & Sons Farm in Bridgeville. The Farm Adventure Trail showcases 15 working farms and agricultural sites poised to offer authentic farm experiences from June through August 2012. Gov. Jack Markell was on hand to share his enthusiasm for the effort. "The Farm Adventure Trail should thrive in Delaware. It helps farmers grow and succeed while opening the gates of their fields and doors of their barns to the public. Agriculture is a vital element of our Delaware economy, and agritourism helps strengthen it." Representatives from the General Assembly, agriculture and tourism groups, economic development, and national, state and local officials were on hand to share in the enthusiasm for the group's endeavor. Secretary of Agriculture Ed Kee praised the initiative. "Agritourism is good for family farms and our economy, helping strengthen our tradition of agriculture here in Delaware," Kee said. "But it also helps families make their own traditions, whether enjoying ice cream on a dairy farm, picking strawberries to take home and make into shortcake, or visiting a horse up close and personal."

ASSOCIATED PRESS (Del.)

WEST VIRGINIA

CHARLESTON GAZETTE

Coal industry wants activists muted in courts over mine permits (Sunday) HUNTINGTON, W.Va. -- Coal industry lawyers are hoping to combine the results of several recent court cases to significantly narrow the ability of citizen groups to block new mountaintop-removal mining permits in federal court. Lawyers for Alpha Natural Resources outlined their strategy last week during a hearing before U.S. District Judge Robert C. Chambers, who is considering citizen group challenges to at least two permits issued by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Shane Harvey, a former Massey Energy Co. general counsel now representing Alpha, argued that a trio of federal court cases leaves Chambers with very little ability to overrule a permit approval from the corps. The rulings -- a district court ruling, an appeals

court decision and a U.S. Supreme Court opinion -- show federal judges should "defer to the corps' review" of applications for Clean Water Act "dredge-and-fill" permits, Harvey said in a legal brief. Chambers did not immediately agree, and questioned Harvey in detail about parts of the industry's analysis. Obama administration lawyers, representing the corps at the hearing, also argued a similarly narrow view, saying Chambers should not hear detailed evidence from academic experts working with citizen groups in the case. At issue is a permit the corps granted to Alpha subsidiary Highland Mining for its 635-acre Reylas Surface mine near Ethel in Logan County. The company hopes to employ about 100 people for six years of mining, and then create a 235-acre site with paved roads and utilities that could be used for temporary housing during flooding and other emergencies. The mine, though, would bury about 2.5 miles of streams beneath a valley fill and associated runoff-control structures.

State activist wins Wallenberg Medal for 2012 HUNTINGTON, W.Va. -- The Ohio Valley Environmental Coalition says a veteran mountaintop-removal coal mining activist has won the Wallenberg Medal from the University of Michigan. Bob White resident Maria Gunnoe will receive her award in October. It's named for Michigan alumnus Raoul Wallenberg, who saved the lives of tens of thousands of Hungarian Jews during World War II. The university said in its announcement that Gunnoe's work exemplifies courage and commitment to Wallenberg's humanitarian values. Gunnoe is the 22nd winner. Last year, the award went to Aung San Suu Kyi, a Nobel Peace laureate who has fought for democracy and human rights in Burma. Gunnoe has already won several awards for her activism, including the Rain Forest Action Network's David vs. Goliath award and the Goldman Environmental Prize.

CHARLESTON DAILY MAIL

WHEELING INTELLIGENCER

WEST VIRGINIA STATE JOURNAL

State role in new oil and gas air emissions rules not yet clear States will have the front-line role in administering the new federal oil and gas air pollution rules, but a supervisor in the state Division of Air Quality said it's not yet clear how it will be carried out. The rules, issued April 17 by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, require "green completion" during the flowback period of hydraulically fractured or refractured wells, along with defined control measures at compressors, processing plants, storage vessels and other industry facilities. Starting possibly in July, operators will have to notify the Division of Air Quality and the regional EPA office by e-mail at least two days before a well completion — that's the process, including fracturing and flowback, that prepares a drilled well for production. Operators will also have to file annual reports detailing every well completion and specifying the compliance actions taken at all other sites during the year. "We haven't in the past permitted the well sites per se," said Robert Keatley, senior engineer and supervisor for Compliance and Enforcement in the DAQ, housed in the state Department of Environmental Protection. "It may not require a permit but we have to evaluate the emissions and look at those source," Keatley said. "We permit the compressor stations, but not the well sites themselves." The rule becomes effective 60 days after it is published in the Federal Register; with publication expected soon, that could be in July. How many sites would this apply to in, say, a year? About 500 gas well permits were issued by DEP's Office of Oil and Gas in 2011, Keatley said, a number that is consistent with past years. He didn't know how many of those would be fractured. Some wells might be on the same well pad and could be permitted together, and some permitted wells are never drilled. But something under 500 per year — possibly well under — seems to be the scale of it.

Rockefeller giving weight to health concerns over coal ash In seeking to decouple coal ash regulations from a major transportation bill April 26, Sen. Jay Rockefeller gave weight to voters' concerns about a connection between coal ash and public health. "We have all heard from our constituents about water contamination and health impacts, and those concerns still need to be addressed," the West Virginia Democrat said in an e-mail to The State Journal. Rockefeller's comments came on the formation of a conference committee to reconcile Senate and House transportation bills. The Republican-controlled House ignored a transportation bill from the Democratic-led Senate and instead created its own. On April 18, the House added as an amendment to its bill a stalled bill from Rep. David McKinley, R-W.Va. that would prevent the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency regulating coal ash as hazardous waste, instead reserving

regulation of its disposal to the states. McKinley said at the time that the amendment would help keep transportation construction costs down by supporting the continued re-use of coal combustion residuals as structural fill and in construction materials. And he issued a challenge, saying the chance to save jobs and construction costs was now in the hands of the Senate.

Jackson Kelly continues expansion in energy Continuing its expansion into the energy industry, Jackson Kelly has added attorneys from a Pennsylvania law firm and is in the process of opening a new office in Canton, Ohio, the firm announced April 27. Effective May 1, four Gormly Gormly & Yuhas attorneys and staff will join Jackson Kelly and will relocate to the firm's Pittsburgh office upon completion of renovations. The attorneys — Kevin M. Gormly, Melissa McCoy Gormly, Stephanie M. Yuhas and Lindsey R. Mitchell — have traditionally represented oil and gas companies in Pennsylvania. Their clients are involved in the Marcellus and Utica shale plays and rely upon their extensive experience in oil and gas law.

PARKERSBURG NEWS AND SENTINEL

BECKLEY REGISTER HERALD

BLUEFIELD DAILY TELEGRAPH

WEST VIRGINIA STATE PUBLIC BROADCASTING

ASSOCIATED PRESS (W. Va.)

MARYLAND

BALTIMORE SUN

Scientists use algae to scrub harbor water In their quest to cure Baltimore's ailing harbor, advocates and authorities have tried one gadget after another: floating wetlands, a solar-powered aerator, even a trash wheel. Add now the "algal turf scrubber," a long wooden sluiceway through which harbor water is pumped over a bed of slimy green algae. The gutter, 350 feet long by a foot wide, uses native algae to strip nutrients, suspended sediment and carbon from water and inject oxygen into it before returning it to the harbor. The algae feed on the nutrients in the water pumped down the sluiceway, just as they do in the open waters of the harbor and the Chesapeake Bay. "We call it 'ecological engineering,'" said Patrick Kangas, director of University of Maryland's Algal Ecotechnology Center. "What you see here is basically a controlled algae bloom." The university's scientists have teamed up with the ecological restoration firm Biohabitats Inc. to build and run the scrubber on a fenced-off gravel lot in Fells Point where a chromium ore processing plant once operated. Kangas and colleagues have been experimenting with algae scrubbers for several years, testing them in the Susquehanna River, on the Eastern Shore and in Virginia. The scrubber at Harbor Point is the same one used two years ago at Peach Bottom nuclear power plant on the Susquehanna, where it was estimated it removed 640 pounds of nitrogen and 90 pounds of phosphorus from the water. The device processed heated water discharged from the Pennsylvania power plant, inspiring Kangas to suggest that larger algae scrubbers might effectively augment or even replace the cooling towers nuclear plants now use to treat the water with which they cool their reactors. Harbor water has been sloshing down the scrubber's wooden trough since December, drawn from the dead-end canal by the Living Classrooms Foundation's campus on Caroline Street. "We've never done it in a spot like this before," said Kangas, who welcomed the chance to try it there because he hoped it might be able to affect water quality. "Our intention was to use this site to show we can overturn a 'dead zone.'"

SALISBURY DAILY TIMES

Seminar focuses on challenges of Potomac River MELFA -- The Science and Philosophy Seminar of the Eastern Shore of Virginia announces its next seminar, "The Nation's River: Challenges for the Potomac." The free hour-long seminar will be held at 12:30 p.m. on Friday, May 4, in the Lecture Hall of Eastern Shore Community College in Melfa. George Reiger will lead the seminar and will discuss the Potomac Basin and its role particularly as a model for the Chesapeake Bay watershed from the point of view of the Interstate Commission for the Potomac River Basin. Reiger and his family have been on the Shore for 40 years while he has pursued a career as a freelance journalist and author. He is a federal commissioner, executive committee member, and past-chairman of the commission.

FREDERICK NEWS-POST

ANNAPOLIS CAPITAL

MARYLAND GAZETTE NEWSPAPERS

SOUTHERN MARYLAND NEWSPAPERS

ASSOCIATED PRESS (Md.)

VIRGINIA

RICHMOND TIMES-DISPATCH

NORFOLK VIRGINIAN-PILOT

Editorial: Mixed messages in crab report (Sunday) As is always the case when the blue crab makes the front page, contention has greeted news that the crustacean's population is at a 20-year high in the Chesapeake Bay, 66 percent larger than a year ago. Watermen argue that it's proof that the crab's future is healthy enough to resume heavier harvests; conservationists argue that the rebound shows the 2007 restrictions are working. That's when Virginia and Maryland instituted new rules designed to reverse a crab crash in the Chesapeake. Scientists involved in this year's annual winter dredge survey estimate that the blue crab population is now 764 million, nearly three times the number in 2007. The announcement brought a rare moment of bipartisan celebration. "This is fantastic news," said Gov. Bob McDonnell in a statement. "The crab population is the highest it has been in the past 20 years, and to see this record production of juveniles is truly remarkable. Those crabs will grow over the summer and many will reach market size in the fall. Those that aren't harvested and brought to the dinner table will become the building blocks for future generations of crabs." "The rebounds of the Bay's crab and oyster populations," former Gov. Tim Kaine said in a statement, "show that by following sound science and making tough decisions, we can establish a regulatory balance that protects our natural resources and allows our industries to flourish."

ROANOKE TIMES

Chemical spill in Giles County not a hazard to New River A small, nonhazardous chemical spill at the Celanese plant in Giles County reported Thursday night appears not to be a threat to the New River, according to the Roanoke office of the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality. Celanese reported the spill to the DEQ on Thursday evening, said

Allen Linkenhoker, pollution response coordinator. So far the DEQ has received no reports that any of the material leaked into the nearby New River, and no damage to wildlife has been observed, Linkenhoker said. Linda Beheler, a Dallas-based spokeswoman for Celanese, said Friday that fewer than 5 gallons of fire suppression foam leaked into the plant's rainwater drainage system during a routine safety test. The foam is considered nonhazardous, Beheler said. The company's internal hazardous materials cleanup team responded immediately to contain the spill, which occurred outside the plant buildings, Beheler said. Absorbent containment booms were placed in the river nearby the spill, she said, and "there were no adverse effects to the environment."

NEWPORT NEWS DAILY PRESS

LYNCHBURG NEWS AND ADVANCE

TASLEY EASTERN SHORE NEWS

SUFFOLK NEWS HERALD

Watermen skeptical of government oyster plans Coming from a world where earning a living means rising before dawn each workday to pull a few hundred crab pots or oyster cages from the water, a veteran waterman from Eclipse and his son don't have great faith in efforts by authorities to restock those waters the family has lived off for over three decades. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers recently held public meetings to discuss the corps' plans to restore oyster populations in the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries. The plan was developed with help from the states of Virginia and Maryland, three federal government agencies, the Potomac River Fisheries Commission and two nonprofits, with the stated goal of restoring an "abundant, self-sustaining oyster population" to restore ecological balance and contribute to the oyster fishery. "I don't think the government programs do very much to help, especially in the long-term," 58-year-old Robbie Johnson said Friday, pausing briefly to talk in his Spartan office while catching up on some paperwork. "We're very fortunate that we have now more oysters than we've had in the past 20 years. I personally don't attribute that to anything that a government agency has done." Earlier this year, Virginia Gov. Bob McDonnell announced that the Chesapeake Bay blue crab population is at a 20-year high, which coincided with 2011's reportedly having been Virginia's best oyster harvest since 1989. It was an announcement delivered with a measure of fanfare — and it wasn't long before Democratic U.S. Senate Tim Kaine chimed in, attributing the welcome news to policies enacted during his term as governor.

FREDERICKSBURG FREELANCE STAR

VIRGINIA GAZETTE

CHARLOTTESVILLE DAILY PROGRESS

ASSOCIATED PRESS (Va.)

MISCELLANEOUS

BNA DAILY ENVIRONMENT REPORT

EP MAGAZINE

EPA Grants Funding for Greening Philadelphia A \$200,000 grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will help fund projects to make South Philadelphia's George W. Nebinger School and surrounding streets greener and healthier. EPA's grant, with matching funding from the Philadelphia Water Department (PWD) and the nonprofit Partnership for the Delaware Estuary (PDE), brings the total award to \$400,000 that will go towards a host of green features at Nebinger School and the adjacent neighborhood. The projects are part of the city's wide-ranging plan, Green City, Clean Waters, to control pollutant-laden stormwater that inundates the city's sewer system and causes sewage overflows into area waterways. EPA and the City of Philadelphia signed a partnership agreement earlier this month to help ensure the success of the city's plan. "This grant will help the city realize the environmental, economic and community benefits of the Green City, Clean Waters plan," said EPA Regional Administrator Shawn M. Garvin. "In controlling stormwater runoff, we'll also be helping students appreciate ways of preventing pollution and creating cost-effective, high-performance green streets adjacent to the school."

BLOOMBERG NEWS SERVICE

REUTERS

NEW YORK TIMES

LA TIMES

ASSOCIATED PRESS

NC lawyer: Landowners must take care on fracking RALEIGH, N.C. (AP) — North Carolina landowners should be extremely careful when considering ceding drilling rights and legislators should require more information and protections for residents as the General Assembly evaluates whether to allow fracking, a state attorney said Thursday. Lynne Weaver, assistant attorney general with the state Department of Justice's consumer protection office, presented to a legislative panel the draft of a report mandated last year by the Legislature to study consumer and legal issues associated with oil and gas exploration. The report, combined with another study by the state Department of Environment and Natural Resources, is considered another step in the Legislature's decision-making on whether to eliminate a ban on hydraulic fracturing — another name for fracking — as soon as mid-2014. House and Senate leaders are preparing competing bills to be considered when they reconvene in three weeks.

